

THE GULF COAST

# *Camellian*

Winter 2015

Volume 41 No. 1



*Camellia japonica* 'Manuroa Road' New Zealand 2001

*A Publication of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

# *The Gulf Coast Camellian*

Volume 41 No. 1 Winter 2015

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## *From the Cover .....*

### ***Camellia japonica 'Manuroa Road'***

New Zealand Camellia Bulletin, March 2001, Issue No.138, vol.XXII, No.2, p.21, as 'Manuroa Rd'. Reg. No.423. Registered by N. Haydon, Takanini, New Zealand. A chance seedling of *C.japonica* Takanini, pollen parent unknown, which first flowered 1994. Flowers are formal double, 11 cm (4 3/8") diameter x 4 cm deep, with 85-90 petals. The outer petals are imbricated as a formal double, the inner petals are much smaller, the outer petals are occasionally slightly lobed, and reminiscent of 'Mark Alan' petals in shape. Flower color is a deep blood red (RHS.CC.53C). The dense foliage is an attractive dark green, with leaves 10 cm long x 4.5 cm wide. The plant is upright, and of average growth rate. Flowers mid-season to late.

# President's Message

*Jim Dwyer*  
*Foley, Alabama*



I am honored to be elected as president of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society. I would like to thank President Lynn Vicknair for assisting me in making my transition to this office. Her suggestions and answers to my questions were a great help. I look forward to serving and welcome suggestions and guidance from our members. Please contact me by email at [jdwyer@gulftel.com](mailto:jdwyer@gulftel.com) or by phone at 251-988-1405.

Congratulations and thanks for agreeing to serve to Vice President Roger Roy, Secretary Rebecca Christian, Treasurer Mike Ruth and the State Vice Presidents Alabama - Al Baugh, Florida - Carol Comber, Louisiana - Jim Campbell, Mississippi - Jim Smelley and Susan Moran, Atlantic Coast Camellia Society - Mark Crawford, and Pacific Coast Camellia Societies - Bob Ehrhart.

What a great meeting. Kudos to the Northshore Camellia Club and all who were responsible for bringing all of this together. Lynn Vicknair, Gulf Coast Camellia Society President and a member of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society, did a superb job of spearheading the organizing and planning. Hunter and Meg Charbonnet arranged for accommodations, meal selections, table arrangements and goody bags. Meg also provided the beautiful needlepoint for the very successful raffle.

Jim Campbell came up with a fantastic slate of speakers. Susan Moran and Lisa Miller made the hospitality room a delightful respite. Florence Crowder made the silent auction a success and Dick

Hooton, Jim Campbell, Mark Crawford, Al Baugh, and David Creech conducted the usual lively plant auction while Roger and Linda Roy, Jimmy Walker and Leo Brown kept track of the winning bids. Mike and Ann Ruth deserve recognition for greeting guests at the registration desk and taking care of all of the paperwork including keeping track of all of the financial transactions at the desk and throughout the meeting.

The people who bought raffle tickets and the plant and silent auction bidders deserve thanks for their support. Mike reported that our revenue for the meeting was \$12,388 while expenses so far were \$9828. It's nice to be in the black—this does not appear to be all that common in family and government budgets these days.

Thanks to all members who contributed items for the silent auction and plants for the plant auction. The interest generated by some of the unusual plants donated by David Creech confirms that there is a general botanical interest exhibited by camellia addicts that goes beyond camellias.

Our guest speakers provided entertainment, education and enlightenment. Sandra Patrick's Dinner Speech on Friday brought out the artistic side of gardening. She made me want to devote more thought into arranging the plants in my garden.

The Saturday educational sessions were inspirational for any camellia lover interested in propagation. Larry Bates showed us how he produced large numbers of fast-growing grafted camellias in a short period of time. I think I will try

his technique involving the use of smaller, younger root stock. J.D. Thomerson's presentation on Hybridizing and Genealogy brought out the importance of selecting the right seed parents and pollen parents for successful cultivar development. He provided us with some of the secrets to Hulyn Smith's success as a plant breeder. I got some hints that I will try in my own attempts at hybridizing camellias. Hong Park's presentation of his Air Propagator was an interesting approach to air layering. I purchased two of his kits to give them a try. Mark Crawford discussed the advantages of grafting camellias in raised beds rather than grafting camellias growing in the ground or growing in pots. He took us through step-by-step instructions for planting root stock, grafting, and transplanting plants using this system.

The Banquet speech was serious but entertaining. Dr. Creech shared some important ecological concerns sprinkled with humor and interesting anecdotes. His discussion of his search in arid areas of Mexico for more drought tolerant varieties of plants that are currently grown in the United States was quite interesting.

Finally, Jim Campbell's tour of Riverside Camellias and John Grimm's tour of Camellia Heaven on Sunday were greatly appreciated by all who were lucky enough to be able to attend. Camellia lovers and gardeners in general saw much to admire. Those who did not attend the 2014 meeting missed a wonderful experience!

I encourage everyone to attend as many camellia shows as possible in coming camellia season. Also, please encourage all of the members of your local clubs to join and participate in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society.

I would like to tell those who do not know me a little about my involvement with camellias. My knowledge of camellias goes back to when I was around five years old and my father bought me what

was then called a 'Pope Pious' camellia. I also remember going with him to local Mobile camellia nurseries where I remember the whitewashed glass jars that were placed on the ground in fields around the nurseries. I only realized the significance of these many years later. After moving on a number of occasions, I lost contact with camellias for many years and only had camellias in my yard when I moved to Troy, Alabama, and purchased a home that I restored. There were two large camellias that must have been around one hundred years old next to the front entrance. One was a 'Professor Sargent' and the other was a 'Pink Perfection.' I had a few other camellias, but I was not yet bitten by the camellia bug. All of this changed when, while visiting my parents, I happened to go to a camellia show in Mobile. I was blown away by all of the fantastic blooms and was also impressed by a fragrant camellia that was displayed at the show. I didn't forget this experience and after I retired and moved to Baldwin County, Alabama, I joined the Camellia Club of Mobile. I learned everything I could about camellias, especially fragrant camellia japonicas and fragrant camellia hybrids. The fragrant camellia hybrids led to an interest in camellia species and I now have a collection of approximately 50 fragrant camellias and over 60 camellia species along with over 100 japonicas sasanquas and retics.

I am currently the secretary and webmaster for the Camellia Club of Mobile and a past president of that organization. I am also active in the American Camellia Society and served for several years as the Alabama State Director and currently chair of the ACS Website Committee.

Again, please share your comments and suggestions with me.



# Gulf Coast Camellia Society Annual Business Meeting

October 18, 2014, Covington, Louisiana

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Gulf Coast Camellia Society, hosted by the Northshore Camellia Society, was held October 17 and 18 at the Clarion Hotel in Covington, LA. The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 8:45, October 18, by the president, Lynn Vicknair. The President called for a moment of silent prayer for the loved ones lost this past year and those who are ill. She then welcomed new members and issued a welcome back to old members.

The reading of the minutes from the 2013 business meeting was waived since they were published in the winter edition of *The Camellian*. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. The first order of business was a financial report from Bob Stroud of the Investment Committee for the Journal Trust Fund. He noted that Trust Fund had a balance of \$84470.00. The GCCS Treasurer, Mike Ruth, noted in his report that the 2013 meeting had been profitable with a net profit of \$5105.00. The treasurer reported a current balance of \$3407.00. Homer Richardson, the web master, sent a report stating that all conference information was posted on the web site. He also requested that local club information be sent to him for use on the GCCS site.

Celeste Richard, Executive Director of ACS, greeted the



Photo by Bob Christian

*President Lynn Vicknair presides.*



*GCCS Secretary Carol Comber*

Photos by Patti Perkins



*Kyle's Choice.*



*ACS Executive Director Celeste Richard*



attendees on behalf of the American Camellia Society. She introduced the new operations manager at Massee Lane, William Khoury. She also noted that David King, a trust person for ACS who was in attendance and had a table with materials available for members of the GCCS. The Executive Director also reminded members that this weekend was the last opportunity to order the 2015 Camellia Calendar. Other information included the launching of a new ACS web site. Additionally she noted there would be a membership table contest at the local camellia shows. Each club will decorate a “new member” registration table sponsored by the Society hosting the Camellia Show. She urged that we at the local level, decorate the table, take good pictures and win the contest. Celeste Richard reminded attendees that the ACS National meeting will be held in Tallahassee, FL January 28-31. She discussed that John Wang would be a featured speaker on hybridizing camellias. Finally Ms. Richard stated the appreciation of ACS for the GCCS donation to improve the Fetterman Building parking lot at Massee Lane.

The President, Lynn Vicknair, reported that that GCCS had 81 participants registered for the current fall meeting. She noted that last year 75 persons attended the meeting in Mobile and that the number of attendees continues to increase annually. Ms. Vicknair reminded participants of the sale of raffle tickets throughout the meeting with the drawing to be held prior to the President’s Dinner. She



*Vince Ciolino*



*Lauren Landry*



*Judy Kerr and Lisa Miller.*



*Will Mangham and Gabriel Olsen*

All photos these two pages by Patti Perkins



*ACS Operations Manager William Khoury and his wife Sandee.*



*Joe Holmes, Laura Holmes, and Celeste Richard*



*Bob and Rebecca Christian*



*Bette Hooton, Vicki Baugh and Al Baugh*



*Hong Park, Lisa Miller, Bob and Erin Stoudt, Gerald and Sharon Phares.*

also reminded those attending that the silent auction would close at 5:00pm and urged getting final bids in prior to that time.

Other new business included the Board's decision to post all GCCS information on the web site. This would include posting past issues of *The Camellian*. Issues posted on-line will be at least one year old when posted. Ken Campbell's request for an increase in the dimensions of *The Camellian* was also approved by the Board. A request to donate funds up to \$500 to the 5-Rivers Nature Center to improve landscaping by the use of Alabama introduced camellia plants. A discussion of each recommendation followed and motions to approve on each were passed.

The nominating committee then presented the following slate of new officers for the next two years as follows: President, Jim Dwyer ; Vice President, Roger Roy; Secretary, Rebecca Christian; Treasurer, Mike Ruth. The State Vice Presidents include Alabama, Al Baugh; Mississippi, Jim Smelley and Susan Moran; Louisiana, Jim Campbell; Florida, Carol Comber. Other members include Atlantic Coast Camellia Society; Mark Crawford and Pacific Coast Camellia Society; Bob Ehrhart. The slate was approved by the general membership.

The President then called for Club Reports. The Ozone Club was represented by Bob Stroud. He discussed the local club's partnerships with Slidell sand North Shore High School. As a

result of this partnership students in the agriculture programs at these two schools grafted 190 camellias. Over 100 students had the opportunity to graft. Bob Stroud recommended contacting agriculture departments at local high schools. Hunter Charbonnet of the North Shore Club reported that they have made a donation to the Milne Home for Women. The Club is donating camellias for the large garden at the Home. Vicki Baugh reported that the Mobile Club is partnering with the Spanish Fort Garden Club to plant camellias at the National Veterans Cemetery at Spanish Fort. The plantings are intended to carry out the red, white and blue theme. Andy Houdek reported that the New Orleans Camellia Show planned for January 24 will commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Orleans Camellia Society.

Following the Club reports, the outgoing President, Lynn Vicknair, reminded those attending that next year's meeting will be held in Bay St. Louis, MS, on October 19-20 at the Hollywood Casino. The New Orleans Club will host the meeting.

Under other business, a motion was passed to send \$2000 to ACS in memory of Marie Mizell and Elaine Smelley.

At the close of the meeting Ms. Vicknair invited attendees to the hospitality suite for refreshments. She gave special thanks to Meg and Hunter Charbonnet, Jim Campbell and Mike Ruth for the success of the North Shore Camellia Society sponsored GCCS meeting.

Activities for the GCCS Meeting began on Friday with a



*Joan Blanchard, Paul Heurkamp, Judy Kerr, Jim Smelley, Larry Bates, and Stephanie Bates.*



*Hunter Charbonnet*



*Speaker Hong Park demonstrates his 'Air Propogator.'*



*Al Baugh kicks off the auction.*



*Dick Hooton, Auctioneer.*



*Jim Campbell, Auctioneer.*





Photo by Bob Christian

**Larry Bates discussed growing grafted camellias in commercial quantities.**



Photo by Jim Dwyer

**J. D. Tomerson talked on hybridizing and genealogy of camellias.**



Photo by Patti Perkins

**Visit to Jim Campbell's Garden**

*Steel sculpture*

*Species c. gigantocarpa*



Photo by Jim Dwyer

**Sandra Patrick discusses Monet's Garden.**



Photo by Bob Christian

**Mark Crawford explains his method of grafting in raised beds.**



Photo by Bob Christian

**Incoming president Jim Dwyer assumes the gavel.**



Photo by Patti Perkins

delicious seafood dinner . The dinner speaker was author, landscaper and artist, Sandra Patrick. She spoke on the manner in which Monet's Garden can be used in the planning of home gardens. Following Ms. Patrick's presentation, the first round of the plant auction was conducted. The second round of the auction followed the business meeting on Saturday morning. After lunch the educational sessions included presentations by Larry Bates, J.D. Thomerson, Hong Park, and Mark Crawford. The silent auction, chaired by Florence Crowder, closed at 5 o'clock. Prior to the beginning of the of the President's Dinner, the outgoing President, Lynn Vicknair again thanked all those who had helped to make the conference a success. She then handed the gavel over to the incoming president, Jim Dwyer.

Following the dinner the new president introduced Dr. David Creech, Regents Professor, Stephen F. Austin. Dr. Creech's presentation included a review of local and international studies of the ornamental horticultural industry, endangered plant rescue, research and reintroduction and finding sustainable solutions to environmental concerns.

At the close of the Dinner the framed needlepoint raffle item donated by Meg Charbonnet was won by Carolyn Dixon. Optional tours on Sunday included John Grimm's "Camellia Heaven" and Jim Campbell's "River Camellia Nursery".

*Minutes by Carol Comber.*



# *From a Gardener's Journal*

**By Lynn Richardson**  
Brookhaven, Mississippi



**O**ur camellias are putting on a dress rehearsal, I hope, of what they are going to do when the shows begin. Several of the japonicas are blooming a good bit earlier than normal. Also a few of the sasanquas are a bit early. 'Kanjiro' and 'Mine-No-Yuki' are ahead of schedule. 'Marie Bracey' and 'Alba Fimbriata,' 'Shiro Bokuhan' and what I hope is 'Campari' are early. Since deer have a digestive system akin to goats and metal tags do them no harm, I can't tell if that is Campari or someone else! The early blooming may be the result of the abundant moisture we had this spring and summer. We have had to water lately, but since October is a dry month for us, it is not unexpected. We were so glad to see spring after that long, cold and strange winter we had. So much for global warming?

We had some family obligations that kept us from going to Covington for the Gulf Coast Camellia Conference, but by all accounts it was really great. Hated we had to miss it. I have a black belt in shopping and really hated missing the auctions. And missing seeing all of our fellow judges and friends.

The news from Brookhaven is that we are going to have a one day show instead of two days. In the last few years, the attendance on Sunday has really fallen off and we had so few visitors that it is just not practical to keep it up. This way we don't have to compete with the Super Bowl and we will have more help and can get everything taken down on the Saturday. Any thing that does not get done, we

can finish the next day. The recreation department has been so very helpful since we began having the show there. They are kind enough to set up the tables on Friday afternoon and we are allowed to store all of our supplies there the rest of the year. That way we don't have to worry about gathering things from hither, thither and yonder. We are truly blessed to have so much support from the community.

Back to the camellias, this year we planted seeds but so far have not seen anything coming up. Also have another varmint to add to the list. Moles have dug holes and tunnels all over the yard! It was bad enough with the deer and squirrels, but the moles have turned the yard into a battlefield. I know that they don't eat camellias and are after grubs, but the tunnels are something else. Fortunately, we have added to our strength in the way of farm dogs. We recently rescued a little brown fiest dog from a busy highway and he thinks part of his job is to go after moles. Don't know if he catches them, but he certainly tries.

With these early blooms, I have already planned centerpieces for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. That is if we still have good blooms. Since we don't put up a Christmas tree for just the two of us, I try to have festive decorations in the rest of the house.

That is about all the news from Brookhaven for now. We hope to see y'all soon at the upcoming shows. Have a really great holiday season and we will see you soon.



# The Beginning of a Garden of Excellence

By Trent L. James, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**T**he Burden Museum & Gardens, Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was recently named a “Garden of Excellence” by the International Camellia Society meeting this spring in Spain...only one of 30 such honored gardens in the world.

The naming of these gardens containing the Vi Stone Camellia Collection honor the work of many over an extended period of time and made this distinction possible by the vision and great effort of Florence Crowder who masterminded the process and accomplished the hard work to gain the designation.

There are many stories that could be told about how this marvelous space of greenery and beauty in the midst of a major Louisiana city came to be and to include camellias as a notable species of plant material. I would like to relate the very beginning and bring it forward to when camellias became an intricate part of the plant life to exist there at Burden, and also to relate a few personal notes along the way.

Burden Museum & Gardens came about because of the donation in 1966 of 440 acres of land, fields, gardens, and home in the very heart of south Baton Rouge to Louisiana State University (LSU) from the Burden Family: Ione, Steele, Pike, and Pike’s wife Jeanette Monroe. The largest donation ever made to LSU, estimated value at time of donation to be \$270 million dollars.

A wondrous “green space” located in the center of a large expanding city and transversed by the intersection of two busy

6 lane federal interstates. Just off a major intersection, a visitor steps into a place of peace and serenity, a sense of wonder, breathtaking beauty and history of times past, where the original donors wanted all who visit to experience a spiritual feeling amidst a pastoral setting.



*Steele Burden*



*The original Windrush Plantation House.*

Windrush Gardens was designed by Steele Burden and were his life’s work beginning with plantings around the original Burden Home in 1920s and expanding the gardens over the following five decades until his death in 1995.



The Gardens were his masterpiece. Mr. Steele appreciated and encouraged people to come into Burden Center and its gardens, out of the rush and bustle of everyday life and to find, “a serene, wooded area in the middle of a big town,” a place where Steele encouraged everyone to leave their worries behind and center themselves and find an inter-peace.

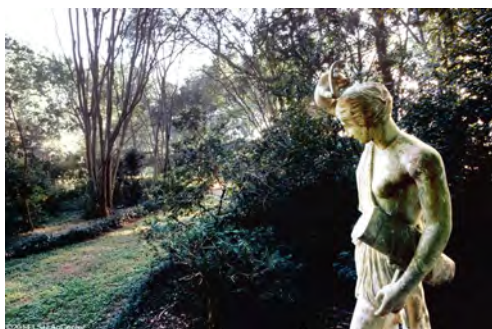
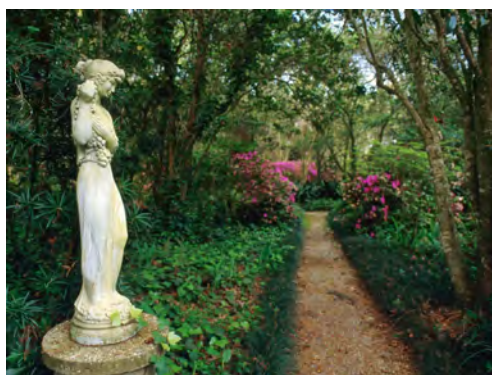
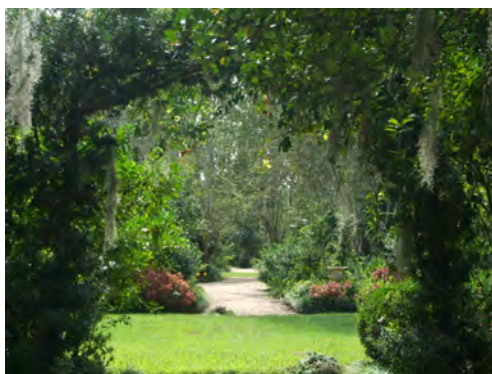
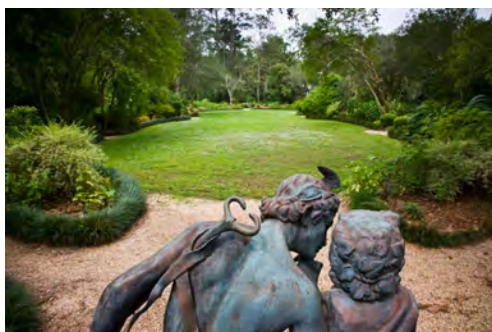
In his gardens, Steele created “rooms” offering a bit different design expression in each. He had an artistic “eye” and a vision for what was to gradually develop over time and with maturing of the plantings.

Steele liked the use of sculpture and garden ornamentation which he experienced in his trips to classical gardens in Europe and elsewhere and can be seen placed throughout the gardens. He began collecting many of his garden features while on these trips abroad.

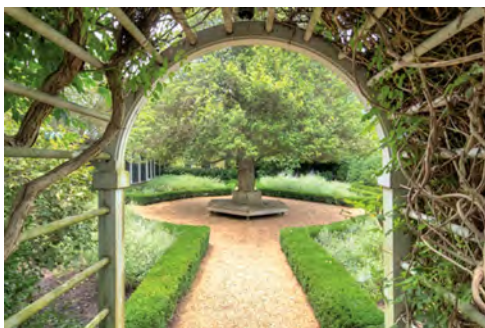
His gardens are filled with hardy plants that by experience and time Steele knew to grow well here in South Louisiana and with a history of presence in old plantation gardens.

I recall Steele telling me, when he was sighting our home on its new location and laying out its landscape in the late 1970s, that the selection of appropriate trees for the grounds was really dependent upon one’s outlook on life: “If you are not planning to be here long, then you plant willows, cottonwoods, and river birches. If you are planning to live longer, then you plant live oaks, magnolias, and cypress.” I discovered that he was quite serious, of a high moral character and a most practical man, “never let a tree stand in your way of your planning”... removing and later planting a better specimen with improved chance of survival in the new landscape often made more sense to him.

I do believe live oaks were the exception. They were his favorites and







with a lifespan of hundreds of years could usually out live the structure. He often said, “The finest thing to come out of the earth is the live oak tree.”

Although Mr. Burden emphasized the “green garden”, using form, size and texture of native plant foliage to create a lush Louisiana landscape, seasonal blooming plants, shrubs, and trees were always scattered throughout his gardens much as an artist uses color from his pallet and textures from his brush. Nature was always creating something in these spaces to stimulate the eye and the mind. Colored foliage was used to brighten dark areas and separate textures or forms.

Just how did Steele Burden come to develop his landscape acumen? He often describes himself by saying, “All I ever was in my life was a yard man, only.” Steele could visualize what an undeveloped space would look like once mature in growth. He designed many yards and gardens in Baton Rouge and surrounding areas for friends and acquaintances.

Born Ollie Brice Steele Burden in 1900, third of 3 siblings from well-known families in Baton Rouge circles dating back to the 1850s, his upbringing was influenced by his maternal grandfather Captain Oliver Brice Steele, “OB” (1844-1919). A successful farmer and merchant, OB moved to Baton Rouge and entered banking and politics, being elected state auditor for two terms. Besides an excellent businessman, OB was an accomplished amateur painter and had an aesthetic nature. Steele spent his formative years around his grandfather OB and from his tutorship came his artistic talents, a joy of beautiful things in art and nature, and a sense of giving back, leaving your part of the world a better place.

Steele’s father moved his family from downtown Baton Rouge out into the

country purchasing Windrush Plantation in 1905 from an uncle to get his young family away from the summer heat and disease of the village. Windrush became their home in 1921 and this is where Steele's love of nature and its beauty developed. Steele tried his hand at formal study in forestry at LSU as a teenager, but did not complete that course.

After the death of his father in 1925 and with the Windrush home needing repairs, Steele began to make the house and the grounds around it more livable and attractive. He claims his interest in planting and landscaping thus began. By then, he already had some knowledge of plant materials, particularly azaleas, and of style, space, and ornamentation.

Steele, working with his mother, laid out the first garden (Garden I) in the rear of the house that included an enclosed space surrounding a circular waterlily pool with a fountain. The fountain is a metal statue of zinc depicting a young woman watering the pool and was a discarded sculpture and former city landmark saved by his father from a junk pile.

In 1926, Steele built a brick garden house behind and attached to Garden I. This became his studio and getaway, as well as a place for the Burden Family to entertain. The garden house was fashioned after a slave cabin and has since been copied in many gardens and yards. Planted around the garden house was his first use of live oaks, his signature tree.

By the latest count in 1995, there were over 400 live oaks on Burden, most all of which were planted by Mr. Steele. He ultimately planted live oaks on the LSU Campus, Baton Rouge City Park and in many landscapes around the city.

His love for landscaping and working with plant materials landed him work with the building of two parks in the city of Baton Rouge. He learned from the

landscape architects and became a landscape designer by trade. Steele served as an apprentice for two years while the Chicago firm of American Park Builders was creating Victory Park (WW I memorial), another smaller park in south Baton Rouge, and the layout for Roselawn Cemetery. Later, he was involved with the same firm to design Baton Rouge City Park and golf course. In 1925, he began his first full-time job for the Baton Rouge City Park Department and planted all the live oaks in City Park and cared for them himself. He did what was necessary to keep them healthy including climbing into the oaks to prune and shape them.

Steele became the city park superintendent and found the best way to train his workers to properly care for the trees and plants was to teach by doing the work alongside them.

In 1930, Steele Burden came to the newly built Louisiana State University on its new site south of the city and below City Park. Initially, design work was done by the Olmstead firm of Boston; however, a final design plan was rendered by Theodore Link who concentrated on the placement of the impressive academic buildings but within a space absent of landscape plantings. E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island was called upon to design and plant certain areas about the campus with shrubbery and flowering plants and camellias, notably the Greek Theater. But it became Burden's job to complement, surround and connect the rest of the campus. Over 1200 live oaks are currently planted on the LSU campus, most of them planted and nurtured by Mr. Steele.

Although his work for LSU was only part time at first, Steele wanted to complete and get further along Baton Rouge City Park and deal with numerous projects for homes throughout the Baton Rouge community, particularly those

neighborhoods springing up around the new LSU campus. His vision, style, taste and practicality had become in great demand. It is into these beautiful yards and gardens of College Town and Magnolia Ridge subdivisions off LSU Avenue and Lakeshore Drive that the “Swat Squad” of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society has visited to identify varieties of camellias and to assist owners with their ongoing care.

While at LSU, Steele planted live oaks, crape myrtles, Japanese magnolias, bald cypress, nandina, ligustrum, azaleas, sweet olives, and camellias; these latter for color and fragrance between buildings. He designed and planted several individual gardens about the campus and around prominent buildings, but few of these exist today having been lost to expansion. Steele often said, “I’d like to take credit for every tree that God didn’t plant.”

Of course for Steele, his home Windrush was where his heart and spirit was refreshed and nurtured. A second garden (Garden II) was added at Windrush in the 1930s adjacent to the first and behind the house, again with his mother helping him. Travels to South and Central America and into Europe developed his artistic taste and sense of space and beauty in nature and in landscape design.

In 1940s, the third garden (Garden III) was planted just south of and connected to the second. So, at Windrush, there is a progression in layout, planting and design interspersed with Greek sculptures and unusual objects as ornamentation.

After World War II, Steele worked full time at LSU until his retirement in 1970. He then spent the next two decades furthering these three formal gardens from his age of 21 to 95 years and putting together the Rural Life Museum. Listed by the British Museum as one of the “Top 10 Outdoor Museums in the World,” the

Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens are visited by students statewide and people from all over the world.

Within the gardens, vegetables were planted into oval and circular beds amidst other plantings and space. The gardens hold elements of seclusion and surprise to stimulate thought and appreciation of beauty. One garden draws you onward and into another, confronting lawns or a pea-gravel pathway leading a visitor around the space onto another attractive vista.

The use of sugar kettles in the landscape was first used by Steele as a water feature in local gardens and are seen throughout Burden Museum & Gardens. Teaching and learning moments are available on every turn or vista in Windrush Gardens. It was Steele’s goal to relay a sense of tranquility and wonder for those who enter his gardens, a sense of times gone by and for finding peace and a personal spiritual awaking of the beauty of nature. This he accomplished at Burden.

Since Steele's death in 1995, the Vi & Hank Stone Camellia Collection has found its place within Burden Center and has spread into the Piney Woods Gardens laid out by Mr. Burden. That story will be left to others, more familiar with that phase than I, to convey to the reader. The Baton Rouge Camellia Society is now a major part of these gardens and our responsibility to carry on and preserve what Mr. Steele began in his life time.

In appreciation and admiration of just what a treasure Mr. Steele and his sister Miss Ione have given to all of us who visit and admire the Burden Museum & Gardens, it is only fitting and proper that this wondrous place be a “Garden of Excellence” and camellias a major part of it.





*Pensacola Camellia Club Workday  
Enid Sloan, George Knight and Tom Henderson planting at University  
of West Florida Gardens*



*Dante Kahn and Reza Vafaei at PCC  
UWF workday*



*Richard Hooton's plate of 3 Henry E.  
Huntington blooms at Fort Walton Show*



*Marie Bracey  
Photo by Norman Vickers*

AROUND



*Vicki and Al Baugh preparing blooms for the Ft.  
Walton Show.*



*PCC Meeting Nov 2014 PCC Pres Paul Bruno, ACS Pres  
Elect Jim Campbell, Roger Vinson past Pres ACS. Jim  
presented information on the heritage camellia  
identification project at Avery Island, LS.*





*Gerald Phares, President of the Baton Rouge Camellia Society and Mary Tauzin, Conference Chairperson for the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, assisted by Lynn Vicknair and Joe Holmes, conducted the drawing for camellias donated by the BRCS. Ms. Tauzin invited the Camellia Society to provide information on growing camellias in our region at the October 22-24 conference in Baton Rouge. Members of the BRCS demonstrated methods for grafting camellias as well as growing camellias on root. Five hundred and fifty gardeners from 13 states were registered for the regional event.*

THE



*Mathotiana  
Photo by Norman Vickers*

REGION



*Joe Holmes inspects Richard Hooton's blooms at the Ft. Walton Show.*



*Junior Prom, first of season for Patti Perkins in Brookhaven, Mississippi.*



*Dr. Mack Thetford talked about rooting cuttings at the September meeting of the Pensacola Camellia Club*

# *The Lady of the Camellias*

By Ruby Campbell, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The tragic but doomed love of Marguerite and Armand told so passionately in *La Dame aux Camellias* (“The Lady of the Camellias” who eventually came to be known as Camille) by Alexander Dumas became one of the great and most enduring love stories from its first publication in 1848. The title role of the consumptive heroine and her ultimate sacrifice inspired at least sixteen versions of the story staged on Broadway alone, and nearly 30 different film adaptations, including the two most well-known versions: the 1936 “Camille,” directed by George Cukor

and starring Greta Garbo as the title character, and the 2001 “Moulin Rouge!”, directed by Baz Luhrmann and starring Nicole Kidman. Even Erich Segal’s 1970s novel, *Love Story* (and the movie based on the novel) is said to be modeled on Dumas’ story.

The story also inspired Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi, to write *La Traviata*, a melodrama in three acts, in 1853, in which the heroine was

renamed Violetta Valery. Although he would typically take four months to compose an opera, Verdi took just four weeks to compose *La Traviata*. The original working title for the opera was *Amore e Morte* (“Love and Death”), but it was changed at the request of

censors. Verdi was very much taken with the tale, considering it “a subject of the times.” *La Traviata* premiered in Venice on March 6, 1853.

Dumas’ heroine, Marguerite Gautier, was actually based on the real-life Marie Duplessis (1824–47), his lover and a popular French courtesan and

salon hostess. A known mistress to a number of prominent men of her era, Marie died tragically of tuberculosis at the age of 23. Although she was born a peasant, Duplessis managed to climb the ladder of Parisian society from laundry girl to one of Paris’ most celebrated courtesans thanks to her wits and striking beauty. She was tall and pale with dark hair and “lips redder than cherries.” Dumas wrote



*Marie Duplessis, painted by Édouard Viénot. Rue des Archives/The Granger Collection*

that she looked “like a little figurine made of Dresden china.” She was reportedly smart, pragmatic, and widely admired, and her salons were attended by the likes of Franz Liszt, Honoré de Balzac, Alfred de Musset, and Théophile Gautier.

While conducting an affair with young Dumas, Marie was supported by an octogenarian, Count Stackelberg, and pretended to be his daughter. Dumas is said to have been forced to sneak around, hiding from Stackelberg, as he himself was too young to be able to support Marie and her extravagant household. It is unclear whether Dumas based the fictional character of Marie’s lover, Armand Duval, on himself or on Count Edouard de Perregaux, who was so in love with her that, in 1846, he married her against the wishes of his family.

At the end, as she was dying of tuberculosis, Marie – abandoned by her lovers and cared for only by her faithful maid Clothilde – died while a horde of creditors were knocking on her door.

When Marie died, her possessions were auctioned off to pay her debts.

The legend goes that Marie loved camellias. In 1886, Henry Sutherland Edwards wrote: “Little did the Jesuit

Kamel, when he brought from Japan the flower which was to bear a name derived from his own; little did he think of what class of women this flower - *Camellia Parisiana* - would one day become the recognized symbol. It is without fragrance; for which reason, in its outward and inward significance, it was habitually worn by the fair one without reputation to whom the name of *La Dame aux Camélias* was so appropriately given.”

Although she loved white camellias above all others, Marie is said to have worn a red one during her time of the month to indicate to her lovers that she was unavailable. Thanks to all the stories circulating about Marie and her flowers, the camellia gained a special mystique.



*Camellia japonica* ‘Ocreleuca’  
Japan to Holland by Siebold 1830



Ballerina Margot Fonteyn bore an  
uncanny resemblance to Marie Duplessis

Elegant and simple, the camellia was adopted by fashion designer Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel as a symbol



of the fashion house's *haute couture*. She is said to have fallen head over heels for the camellia after one was given to her by her polo-playing lover, Boy Capal. She started pinning silk versions to her lapels and in her hair. Representations of the blossoms found a home on the black and gold-laquered coromandel screens in her apartment at 31 rue Cambon. Since then, the flower has become a staple of wardrobes around the world.

Dumas' novel has also been performed as a ballet, *Marguerite & Armand*, choreographed by Frederick Ashton and danced by Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev (1963). Although Ashton did not want the ballet to be revived by another cast, it was performed at the Royal Ballet in 2000, and again in 2005 where Tamara Rojo debuted as Marguerite. It was performed most recently in May 2012 at La Scala Theater, Milan, Italy.



*Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev  
in Marguerite and Armand*



*Poster by Alfons Mucha (1896) for the production of  
La Dame aux Camélias with Sarah Bernhardt.*





# *Camellia Show Dates 2014-2015*

**11 October 2014 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society**

Georgia National Fair, 401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry Georgia.

**8 November 2014 - Greater Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society**

Westwood Retirement Resort, 1001 N. Mar-Walt Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

**8 November 2014 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society**

Byron Municipal Complex, Byron, GA

**8 November 2013 - Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

Lyman Community Center, 13472 Highway 49, Gulfport. MS (4 mi. North of I 10)

**6 December 2014 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX.**

First Christian Church Fellowship Building, 3500 North Loop 336 West.

**6 December 2014 - Ozone Camellia Club, Slidell, LA**

Saint Margaret Mary Gym, Robert Road, Slidell, LA.

**13 December 2014 - Pensacola Camellia Club, Pensacola, FL**

First Baptist Church, 500 North Palafox, Pensacola, FL.

**20 December 2013 - Northshore Camellia Club, Covington, LA**

St. Scholastica's Academy Gym., 122 North Massachusetts St, Covington, LA.

**3 & 4 January 2015 - Gainesville Camellia Society, Gainesville, FL.**

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 Southwest 58th Drive, Gainesville, FL.

**17 & 18 January 2015 – Camellia Club of Mobile, Mobile, AL**

Colonial Mall, Bel Air, Mobile, AL.

**24 January 2015 - Camellia Club of New Orleans, LA—Theodore Roosevelt**

Middle School, Kenner, LA

**31 January 2015 - Tallahassee Camellia Society, Doyle Conner Administration**

Building, 3125 Conner Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL

**7 February 2015 - Brookhaven Camellia Society, Brookhaven, MS**

Brookhaven Recreation Department, Highway 51 N.

**14 & 15 February 2015 - Baton Rouge Camellia Society, Baton Rouge, LA**

Rural Life Museum, Essen Lane at I-10, Baton Rouge, LA.

**14 February 2015 - Coushatta Camellia Society, Huntsville, TX.**

Gibbs Ranch Conference Center, Sam Houston State University, 113 Fraser Road.

**28 February 2015 - Middle Georgia Camellia Society, Fort Valley, GA**

Massee Lane Gardens, Fort Valley, GA.

**7 March 2015 - Southeast Alabama Camellia Club, Dothan,**

**AL,** First Methodist Church Family Center, 1380 West Main St., Dothan, AL

If you have a show date or judging school date that you would like listed in *The Camellian*, please send them to the editor at the address on the inside back cover.



# Grafting Camellias in Raised Planter Beds

Text by Mark Crawford  
Photos by Randolph Maphis

**G**rafting camellias is a very time consuming and labor-intensive way to propagate camellias compared to rooting cuttings. Unfortunately many of the most desired camellias must be grafted in order to thrive and bloom well. Many camellias, particularly *reticulatas*, have a weak root system and are prone to root rot and other stem and soil-borne pests. Grafting on *sasanquas* is the most common rootstock used due to its good resistance to root rot especially in heavy soils found in the lower Mississippi valley. The author prefers the Higo camellia Kumagai Nagoya due to its fast growth and very aggressive root system. This variety has the potential to grow 3 feet in one year if well fertilized and kept free of flower buds.

In the southeast grafting camellias in containers has been problematic with very poor success rates of 20-30%. This is unacceptable considering all the time growing the rootstock and the grafting operation. The primary problem in containers is that the root system dies before the graft union can heal. This has led to the development of alternative ways to graft with using raised beds as the best option. Rootstock plants grown in raised beds grow as if they are directly in the ground and have much better survival after being grafted. Advantages of using raised beds are less hassle dealing with individual pots, better soil condition in raised bed, high plant density, easier to graft than plants directly in the ground, excellent drainage preventing root rot when root stock cut off and very easy to dig and pot when ready and better survival than plants directly in the ground. The

disadvantages are you can only graft during good weather, requires working close to the ground and bending over and plants must be dug and placed into pots for a full year before planting.

**B**uilding a raised bed is not difficult requiring minimum carpentry skills. First find a suitable place preferably with a half-day of sun for best growth. I prefer to make my beds wide enough to accommodate 2 rows of plants. This makes the grafting process much easier as you are not leaning over another row during the grafting process. Next decide if you want to use treated or untreated wood. Treated wood will last several years compared to untreated but some believe the treatment chemical will hurt the plants. I have not experienced this and if this is of concern you can paint the inside of the bed before filling with soil to seal the wood. After deciding the length and width use at least 10 inch wide boards for good rooting depth. Corners can be connected using prefab metal corners, 2 X 2 or 4 X 4 post placed inside the bed and then screwed (not nails) to boards. See Fig. 1, 2 & 3. Placing your bed on ground cover fabric helps keep the area clean and prevents tree root intrusion. After securing the corners, place 18 inch long rebar along the sides every 4 -6 ft to prevent the boards from bowing outward when filled with soil. Fig 3. Next you want to fill your bed with soil. I prefer to use a field/native soil amended with some type of organic matter like compost, peat moss, pine bark, alfalfa pellets, or a combination of these. Check the pH and if below 5.5 then incorporate lime. Fill the bed to the



*Figure 1.*

***Raised bed corners using 2 X 2s and metal straps.***



*Fig 2.*

***Wood attached using prefab metal corners.***



*Fig 3.*

***Corners attached using 4 X 4s. Rebar used to keep boards straight.***



*Figure 4.*

***Raised beds filled with soil.***



*Figure 5.*

***Planted raised bed with soaker hose irrigation.***

top with soil to allow for settling. Fig. 4.

Your bed is now ready to plant. I plant rooted cuttings or one-gallon plants 8 to 10 inches apart. Both will take 1-2 years to achieve grafting size depending on plant size and your culture. Fertilize plants monthly or use a full season controlled release fertilizer so they grow throughout the summer. Irrigate plants using a soaker hose or drip tape. Fig. 5. Avoid overhead irrigation if possible. Provide pest control when needed to keep plants healthy.

**N**ow it is time to graft. Depending on where you live that will be January or February and into early March. You can graft plants one at a time or to save time try the assembly line approach. First cut off several plants to the desired grafting height. Then cleft all the stumps. Then place scions in the rootstocks labeling each plant. Then cover all the grafts and seal with sand. Then repeat operation. This saves time because you are not changing types of tools between every plant like when you do them individually. Large Styrofoam cups or white plastic bottles can be used for covers. Do not use bottles made of clear or translucent plastic like milk bottles.

After all the rootstocks are grafted then wait until April 15<sup>th</sup> to look under the cups. When the scions start to grow poke a single hole in the top or side of the cup. Wait a week and poke another hole or 2 in the cup. After a few weeks it will be time to remove the entire top of the cup. Do not remove the cup until the scion has grown well above the top. Fig 6 & 7. It is also a very good practice to apply



a fungicide to the scions at this time. The growth is very tender and succulent and easily infected by the dieback fungus, *Glomeralla singulata*. It is absolutely necessary to keep the new main stem healthy during the first year to assure the long-term health of the plants. Your objective is to prevent any leaf drop during the first year because leaf scars are points of fungal infection.

When all the covers are removed you need to fertilize monthly and apply fungicide every 2 weeks since growth is very active on new grafts.

**P**lants are ready to dig when the scion stops growing and a terminal bud forms. Fig. 8. This begins in late October and it is best to dig all the plants so that the bed can be replanted for the next group of grafts. Transplant to pots so graft can develop a good root system. Keep potted grafts in heavy shade or in a greenhouse for a few weeks after potting. After they appear acclimated they can be located to a favorable growing area for 6 months to a year at which time they can be planted in your garden.

Using raised beds and ‘Kumagai Nagoya’ rootstock has significantly improved grafting success in the coastal southeast compared to grafting in pots. If you have good success in pots keep doing what you are doing but if not, try a raised bed and let me know how it works for you.



*Figure 6.*

**Raised bed 4 months after grafting showing some scion growth.**



*Figure 7.*



*Figure 8*

**Grafts at end of season ready to be dug and placed into pots.**



# 'In This World of Ordinary People'

By Bette Hooton, Pensacola. FL



A chilly fall here in P'cola—I hope this is not a vision of what January and February are going to be like. But Dick says the camellias love the chill; so if that's what keeps Dickie happy, I'm all for it. The successful GCCS Conference is behind us, and I had a lovely time even though I don't quite understand some of the lingo. I and many others, I'm certain, are what our nurseryman John Davy calls "precious camellia wife." When I heard him use the expression, after a day of busyness and then driving out at dusk to the backside of Milton, FL, to secure some special thing that the man had to have for his plants that evening—John stuck his head in the truck window as I not-so-very-patiently waited and said to me, "How are you, Precious Camellia Wife?" And I answered and truly meant it, "Just fine, John, just fine." How kind.

So at the Conference, another nurseryman, Mark Crawford had a present for me—4 big squashes. Mark and I trade recipes from time to time: he says I'm a great cook and I say the reason for that is that he grows the most beautiful vegetables. Then a while back, Dick, Roger, and their new camellia pal Allen drove north to Valdosta to Mark's, and I sent a few squash recipes to Mark. In fact, one of them for an amazing Squash and Bean Soup (which our camellia friends from Mobile, Vickie and Al, Jimmy and Leo will taste in a few weeks!) is one that belongs to my Italian mother. The Mobile contingent will visit soon to see the Scenic Highway blooms.

Another busy guy here in 'the upside of Florida' is Paul Bruno, president of the

club. He opened V.Paul's Italian Ristorante in downtown Pensacola named after his dad Vincent Paul, during late summer to rousing cheers from our community. Camellia folks supported Paul every step of the way, and he is supporting them by holding a fundraiser in late November with a plant auction (I hear 'Dragon Fireball' bandied about! Maybe



*C. hybrid 'Dragon Fireball' c. japonica 'Merry Christmas' x c. hybrid 'Virginia W. Cutter.' Originated 2008 by John Wang, Orinda, CA.*

that's why Al Baugh is dragging Vickie across the water to attend!) and fantastic jazz entertainment along with a dinner buffet. The décor includes camellias, of course. The money made will be put to good use, paying for a new camellia truck. Yes, I hate to break the news to all our faithful readers: the **B.R.A.T.** is dead. The Big Red Axx Truck had a long and happy life with thanks to Ole Olsen for maintaining its health.

'Extraordinary people': they are who participate and help in many ways not publicized. As my daughter would say, "How cool is that!"





# In the Winter Garden

*By Art Landry, Baton Rouge, LA*

**W**inter is the time to enjoy those blooms you have waited for all spring, summer and fall and to get ready for the winter chores of grafting, planting, re-potting and mulching.

The plants need ample moisture to bloom, so water every week that they don't get enough rain. Try to pick up spent blooms to control petal blight.

Transplanting of plants can take place in December and continue through February. If you prepared your planting sites in October, the planting place should be in good shape by now if you've turned the soil over a few times. If you didn't do this earlier, do it now and wait a month or two.

Collect mulching materials (leaves, pine straw, etc) and keep your plants well mulched.

Attend camellia shows in your area and take flowers if you can. The clubs putting on shows always need plenty of flowers to make an impressive show.

## December

Camellia plants or books make wonderful Christmas presents. A gift membership in your local camellia society, the Gulf Coast Camellia Society or the American Camellia Society will also be appreciated by your camellia friends.

## January

January is a good time to do minor pruning while you are cutting flowers from the bush. If the branch is a weak one or will have no growth bud on it, then cut it off back at the main branch or the trunk.

Don't leave a branch with leaves on it without growth buds; it is likely to die back anyway. You are better off to prune it away at the time you cut the flower.

If you have a plant with a scale problem, you can spray with oil emulsion such as Dormant Oil or Ultrafine Oil spray. Another good product is Neem Oil, also sold as a rose spray. Look for the active ingredient to be Neem Oil. (For example, Neem Oil is now 'the active ingredient in "Triple Action" spray by Fertilome which also contains a miticide and a fungicide.) As with other oil sprays, use in mild weather periods to avoid damage to the leaves. Always use as directed by manufacturer.

Get started with your grafting this month. The best days for grafting in 2015 to take advantage of any help the moon phases may be are M-W Jan. 26-28; Tues-Thur Feb. 24-26; and Thur-Sat Mar. 26-28. If you are inexperienced at grafting contact your local camellia club about a demonstration or hands-on assistance in learning.

## February

February is usually the month of most profuse blooming of camellias in this area. The early bloomers are finishing, the midseason varieties are in full swing, and the late season bloomers are starting. We seldom have hard freezes in February to interrupt the blooming.

Check container grown plants if rainfall is sparse, and water as needed.



# *Camellia Quiz*

The following camellias have won the Ilges Medal awarded to the best japonica seedling developed in any one year.

Can you name them? Answers on page 28.



#1

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#2

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#3

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#4

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#5

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#6

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# Editor's Notes

By Kenn Campbell, Baton Rouge, LA  
kennbc@cox.net



I know you all must be enjoying the cooler weather and the beginning of the blooming season. I especially enjoyed some rain we finally got in mid November. We had fewer than two inches of rain in September, over three weeks of no rain in October, before finally getting two inches on 17 November. I was pretty busy watering for most of three months. The problem is that the camellias don't really like our alkaline, chlorinated water and as of Thanksgiving have not made much progress toward blooming. December has to be better.

Another volunteer seedling under 'Sukiya' bloomed last week (22 Nov) and had a pretty nice flower. Its



Open polinated seedling of 'Sukiya' 4 ¾ inches.

tap root must have reached the watertable Because it is growing in a location that never gets watered.

The GCCS Annual Meeting had speakers with very good information. I plan to try a couple of things I learned. Mark Crawford spoke on raised bed grafting (see page 22) which seems to be much easier than the hassle of handling a bunch of pots. The soaker hose irrigation system would be better than trying to keep individual pots watered. My raised bed will not be nearly as big as the ones Mark and Randolph Maphis use.

Larry Bates talked about his system for producing large quantities of grafts for the wholesale trade. His procedures included grafting on pencil size vigorously growing understock and is another idea I want to try also.

Hong Park discussed his Air-Propogator which we had a story about in the Summer 2013 and Winter 2014 issues. His latest model has been modified from the one we tested and the hinge seems like it would make it much easier to use.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

## Camellia Quiz Answers

1. 2009 *Black Magic* - Nuccio's, Altadena, CA 1992;
2. 1981 *Man Size* - Hody Wilson, Hammond, LA 1961;
3. 1972 *Julia France* - Ashby, Charleston, SC 1958;
4. 1993 *Lady Laura* - Lundy, Pensacola, FL 1972;
5. 2008 *Georgia National Fair* - Robert Drews, Charleston, SC 1995;
6. 1987 *Show Time* - Nuccio's, Altadena, CA 1978.

# *Camellia Websites*

## **American Camellia Society**

[www.americancamellias.org](http://www.americancamellias.org)

## **Atlantic Coast Camellia Society**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org)

## **Baton Rouge Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/brcamellias](http://www.facebook.com/brcamellias)

## **Birmingham Camellia Society**

[www.birminghamcamellias.com](http://www.birminghamcamellias.com)

## **Brookhaven Camellia Society**

[www.homerrichardson.com/camellia](http://www.homerrichardson.com/camellia)

## **Camellia Society of North Florida**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia\\_Society\\_North\\_Fla.html](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.com/Camellia_Society_North_Fla.html)

## **Coushatta Camellia Society, Conroe, TX**

[www.coushattacamelliasociety.org](http://www.coushattacamelliasociety.org)

## **Fort Walton Beach Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety](http://www.facebook.com/FWBCamelliaSociety)

## **Gainesville (Florida) Camellia Society**

[www.afn.org/-camellia/](http://www.afn.org/-camellia/)

## **Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

[www.gulfcoastcamellias.org](http://www.gulfcoastcamellias.org)

## **Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society**

[www.facebook.com/Mississippi\\_Gulf\\_Coast\\_Camellia\\_Society](http://www.facebook.com/Mississippi_Gulf_Coast_Camellia_Society)

## **Mobile Camellia Society**

[www.mobilecamellia.org](http://www.mobilecamellia.org)

## **Northshore Camellia Society**

[www.northshorecamelliasociety.org](http://www.northshorecamelliasociety.org)

## **Pensacola Camellia Club**

[www.pensacolacamellioclub.com](http://www.pensacolacamellioclub.com)

## **Valdosta Camellia Society**

[www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%202013-2014.pdf](http://www.atlanticcoastcamelliasociety.org/assets/pdf/Valdosta%20Newsletters%20-%202013-2014.pdf)

*Does your club have a website? Send it to us and we will be glad to print it.*



*C. japonica* "C. M. Wilson" 1949, by Mrs. A. E. Wilson,  
Pensacola, FL



*C. japonica* "Alyson Pollard" 1977, by Doug Mayfield, Baton  
Rouge, LA



*C. japonica* "Elaine's Betty Var." 2010, by J. & E. Smelley,  
Moss Point, MS



*C. japonica* "Glen 40" 1942, by Azalea Glen Nursery, Loxley,  
AL

# Gulf Coast Camellia Society

## Invitation to Join

The Gulf Coast Camellia Society was organized in 1962 for the purpose of extending appreciation and enjoyment of camellias. The Society strives to provide information to its members about all aspects of the care and culture of camellia plants as well as the exhibiting and showing of camellia blooms. The Society also serves as a forum for members to share and exchange information and experiences with other members.

Annual dues for membership in the Gulf Coast Camellia Society are \$10.00 for individuals and \$12.00 for couples. Membership runs from October through September each year. Life Membership is available at \$200 for individual and \$240 for couples. Included with membership are four issues of *The Gulf Coast Camellian* which contains articles on all aspects of camellia culture as well as serving as an exchange of news and information between and for members. *The Camellian* also contains reports of the Society's operations, minutes of meetings, financial reports, show news, and other subjects of interest to our members.

**To join**, send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, along with your payment to ***Gulf Coast Camellia Society, in care of Michael Ruth, 726 High Plains Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



# *The Gulf Coast Camellia Society*

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Mississippi	James Smelley, Susan Moran
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Photo by Patti Perkins

Jim Campbell hosted GCCS members on a tour of his Riverside Camellia Gardens following their Annual Meeting in Covington, Louisiana. See page 5.